

Baker Admits Need to Revise Courts Martial

Amendments to Present
Procedure To Be Sub-
mitted When Congress Re-
convenes, He Declares

Foreign Systems Studied

Bar Association Also Was
Consulted; Champions of
Ansell Claim Vindication

WASHINGTON, April 5.—A culminating and unexpected contribution to the Baker-Ansell-Chamberlain controversy was Secretary Baker's announcement to-day that the War Department will reform the code of military justice. A programme of revision, he said, was being drawn up and would be presented for inclusion in the future military code when Congress reassembles.

In addition to the reports and recommendations of special agents assigned to study the British and French systems of army legal proceedings, Secretary Baker announced he personally would devote time en route to Europe and while on the other side to a study of the existing system and the recommendations made to him.

The suggestions to be made by the War Department will be based on an inquiry by Brigadier General E. A. Kruger, acting judge advocate general, and a board of officers of the judge advocate general's department, and the opinion of civil lawyers of the American Bar Association committee, reinforced by some recommendations to be made by Judge Advocate General Enoch H. Crowder and a study of the French and British systems by the Secretary and Colonel William C. Rigby.

Vindication of Ansell Seen

The admission by Secretary Baker that the present administration of military justice is imperfect was taken by friends of Lieutenant Colonel Samuel T. Ansell as complete vindication of that officer's criticism and suggested reforms. In some quarters also the expressed desire of Secretary Baker to amend the present system was interpreted as a move to head off any Congressional investigation that may ensue as a result of the outspoken criticism by Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, and Representatives Gould, of New York, and Johnson, of South Dakota, of the House, who have been among the severe critics of what they termed the "military injustice" of the present system.

In announcing his intention to devote considerable time en route to Europe and while abroad to a consideration of reforms of the present military code Secretary Baker said:

"General Crowder has made a number of recommendations for modifications in court martial regulations which have grown up in his mind. General Kruger is studying these recommendations with a board of officers, and I myself have gone over some of them and approved the principles of some of the recommendations.

Takes Data on Trip

"In addition to this, I am taking a copy of the articles of war and court martial regulations abroad with me, so I can devote as much time as possible on the boat to that general subject, and when I am in Europe I am going to make some inquiry as to French and British systems, and Colonel Rigby is being sent abroad to make a particular study of the French and British systems, so we can have all the light we can get from that side.

"I hope to be able to get together the best body of opinion I can, from civil lawyers, American Bar Association committee, from judge advocates and those who have had experience in the administration of military justice and from officers who have commanded in the field and have had military experience in dealing with the subject, so that from all points of view I am trying to get every suggestion possible for analysis of our military code. Many of the criticisms which have been made have been very helpful, and as I know I have taken advantage of each criticism. I have sought to test each criticism to find out whether it dealt with a mere breakdown of the human element or whether the regulation with which it concerned itself needed changing.

"I hope that by the time Congress reassembles to have constructive suggestions to make to them about the substance of the military code and about the procedure, and without waiting for Congressional action, wherever it seems that regulations need improvement, I am authorizing those regulations to be changed."

History of Controversy Reviewed

The Crowder-Ansell-Chamberlain controversy, referred to in the foregoing dispatch, is that between Major General Enoch Crowder, Judge Advocate General of the army; Lieutenant Colonel Samuel T. Ansell, former Acting Judge Advocate General, and Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, over the American court martial system. Last winter Colonel Ansell, who then held the wartime rank of brigadier general, challenged the justice of the military courts before the Senate and House committees on military affairs. His criticism raised a storm of protest from the whole country and it was echoed on the floor of both houses of Congress.

On March 6 Secretary Baker demoted Ansell to his pre-war rank of lieutenant colonel, and although Mr. Baker declared this demotion had nothing to do with Colonel Ansell's disclosures, Colonel Ansell's friends asserted he was being persecuted for telling the truth.

General Crowder took up the cudgels for the War Department and declared Colonel Ansell's criticisms were prompted by selfish motives. Colonel Ansell found many staunch defenders in Congress, chief of them Senator Chamberlain, who said Secretary Baker was under the influence of army reactionaries.

Ansell's Letter Buried

The controversy culminated in a letter which Colonel Ansell wrote to the Secretary of War, replying at length

attacking the military courts and placing upon Secretary Baker the primary responsibility for existing conditions. Secretary Baker refused to make the letter public, after being twice asked to do so by Senator Chamberlain. Mr. Baker returned the communication to Colonel Ansell, with the statement that it was "not helpful." The letter found its way into the newspapers this week. Colonel Ansell said in the letter that "if responsibility for such maladministration as has existed in this office is to be located it must be located first upon the Secretary of War." He said he accused General Crowder of a change of front on the court martial question and that Crowder explained by saying: "Ansell, I had to go back on you. I am sorry, but it was necessary to do it in order to save my official reputation."

Army System Denounced

Renewing his attack on the army courts, Colonel Ansell said: "I say the system does not do justice. It does injustice—gross, terrible, spirit-crushing injustice. Evidence of it is on every hand to those who will but see. The records of this office speak with it. The organization of the clemency board now sitting daily and daily recommending clemency in a hundred cases is a confession of it. Clemency, however, can never efface the injustice done. In my judgment the army will never hold the place it ought to hold in the faith and affection of our people until the machinery for doing military justice is humanized."

State May Drop Prosecutions of B. R. T. for Wreck

District Attorney Lewis Is
Disappointed at Acquittal
of Motorman; Court Aided
Defendants, He Declares

District Attorney Lewis of Kings County declared yesterday he had not decided whether he would proceed with the trials of the four B. R. T. officials under indictment, following the acquittal of Anthony E. Lewis, motorman of the Brighton Beach train which was wrecked with a loss of ninety-seven lives.

Thomas F. Blewitt, the division superintendent, the only other person tried in connection with the disaster, was previously freed. There is a strong belief that the cases will be dropped against the other officials in view of the failure to convict the first two. Those under indictment are Timothy S. Williams, president; John J. Dempsey, vice-president; John H. Hallock, president of the New York Consolidated Railroad, and William S. Menden, consulting engineer.

District Attorney Lewis said he would confer first with Assistant District Attorney Warbasse, who conducted the case against Lewis, before deciding on the state future procedure. Mr. Lewis issued a formal statement, reading in part:

"The indictments were removed from Kings County to Nassau County by a justice of the Supreme Court, so that the indicted persons could have an impartial trial. Blewitt and Luciano were aided in their defence by high judicial officers, who took a most active part in the selecting of jurors for the trial.

"Upon the trial of Blewitt it was proven that many of the rules of the road had been violated in the selection of the motorman on the day of the catastrophe.

"In my opinion the proof on Luciano's trial demonstrated beyond any possible doubt that Luciano was wholly unfit, as well as unfamiliar with the road, and that this was the cause of the derailment of the train. The result has been most unfortunate and has shaken faith in certain aspects of our judicial system."

Britain Aims to Rule In Air, Reports Coffin

Retains 11,000 Flying Officers,
With Total Personnel of
110,000 Men

WASHINGTON, April 5.—Howard S. Coffin, former chairman of the Aircraft Board, returned to Washington today from a trip to Europe, taken to examine aircraft developments and tendencies. He was much impressed by the extensive plans of the European governments for direction and encouragement of aerial transit along both military and commercial lines.

Britain is retaining 11,000 flying officers, and will have a permanent force of not less than 5,000. These figures mean a total personnel of 110,000 and 50,000, against the total of 20,000 for the United States army and navy, according to present plans. Every encouragement is being offered to commercial developments, and Britain intends, evidently, to seek both the military and commercial supremacy of the air. The elaborateness of the plans being laid for development and regulation of aviation, Mr. Coffin says, is quite beyond comprehension on this side of the ocean.

Four Tenants' Strikes Being Waged in City

Rentpayers in Bronx Are Or-
ganizing to Bring Pressure on
Real Estate "Gamblers"

Four tenants' strikes against rent increases are now in progress, according to Mary Mardfin, executive secretary of the Greater New York Tenants' League, who said yesterday that Mayor Hylan's aid had been invoked in vain to stop rent profiteering.

"I went to see Mayor Hylan before he went to Palm Beach," said Mrs. Mardfin, "and then he promised he would appoint a commission to summon landlords to show cause why they raised rents. Although the proposed commission is endorsed by Nathan Hirsch, of the Mayor's own committee, the Mayor has not yet kept his promise."

Mrs. Mardfin said that an era of "real estate gambling" was in progress, in which landlords were raising rents in apartments and tenements and then selling them at a profit, the new purchaser, in many instances, repeating the process.

Tenants throughout the Bronx are being organized, according to Mrs. Mardfin, and where an increase seems unjustifiable they decline to pay it. Mrs. Mardfin predicted that there would be a number of evictions as a consequence of the strikes, which, she said, had been begun in houses on East 142d Street, Crotona Park North and Washington Avenue.

"The rent increases are city wide."

B. Altman & Co.

Thirty-fourth Street

MADISON AVENUE-FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Thirty-fifth Street

Telephone 7000 Murray Hill

A Timely Sale of
Summer Cretonnes
will take place to-morrow (Monday)
on the Fourth Floor.

Several thousand yards of desirable Cretonnes will be offered, embracing a sufficient variety of attractive designs and color effects to make a wide appeal.

At the unusually low price of
68c per yard

this Sale affords a rare opportunity for obtaining the Summer's supply of draperies, furniture covers, etc., at an economical figure.

(Upholstery Department)

Another Sale of
Summer Cotton Fabrics
at 48c per yard

will be held to-morrow (Monday).

The selection consists of English Printed and American Woven Voiles (which are in great demand) in widths of from 33 to 38 inches.

The qualities are unusually desirable and a choice may be made from printed designs, woven checks, blocks and stripe effects.

The price quoted represents a reduction of at least one-third.

The Later Modes in
Women's Tailor-mades
are now displayed in the spacious
and newly-arranged Department
on the Third Floor.

Never, it would seem, were there so many attractive models from which to choose one's Easter suit as there are this season; certainly there were never quite so many individualized designs—all essentially different, but all equally charming. From this collection it should not be difficult for Madame to select exactly the suit adapted to her type of face, figure and personality—and that is really of the utmost importance nowadays, when the psychology of clothes counts for so much.

Quality—the "Altman Standard"—has been the first consideration in producing these tailor-mades; in material and workmanship as well as in style. The prices will prove universally attractive.

The Pre-Easter Display

of Smart Clothes for Men, Women, Misses and
the Younger Set

is the feature of interest in the Departments devoted to fashionable outer-apparel.

And no less important are the minor accessories, including Neckwear, Handkerchiefs and Perfumes—all of them so vitally necessary to the success of the Easter costume.

A Special Sale of Hand-embroidered Lingerie Robes

(unmade)

will commence in the Lace Department to-morrow
(Monday)

The Robes offered in this Sale are composed of fine-quality French voile and batiste, and were embroidered abroad from designs originated by and exclusive to B. Altman & Co. The needlework is exquisitely done, and at the prices quoted below

the values are extraordinary

Hand-embroidered Robes at \$29.50

Hand-embroidered Robes, with encrusted medallions of real filet lace at \$38.00

In view of the fact that lingerie robes will come into their own again during the coming Summer, this Sale offers a distinctly worth-while opportunity.

(First Floor)

An Exclusive Importation of Robes d'Interieur

just arrived from Paris, may now be viewed in the spacious Salon
devoted to Women's House Gowns, on the Third Floor.

All the witchery of Paris seems to lie enmeshed in the soft draperies of these lovely creations. Wonderful color effects, rich embroideries, dainty laces, with here and there a gleam of gold or silver—in all of these is revealed the inimitable artistry that is but a synonym for Paris.

It is such artistry, however, as one has learned to expect from Callot Soeurs, Drecol, Bulloz, Robert, Jenny, Miler Soeurs, Alexandre and Christian, in whose ateliers most of these charming negligees originated.

Marvex Gloves, Betalph Silk Hosiery and Balta Shoes

all of which are essentials of the fashionable costume, are assembled
for selection in their respective Departments.

All are made exclusively for B. Altman & Co., and may be obtained
in the styles and sizes appropriate for Men and Women.

Little Children's French Hats and Bonnets

newly arrived from Paris, are among the many dainty new things displayed in the Department for Little Children's Wear, on the Second Floor.

Little Children's Coats and Hats to match, made of the lovely materials that Fashion has sanctioned for the tiny folk, are another interesting feature.

A New Importation of Straw Hats and Bonnets

(for little children) will be placed
on sale in this Department on
Monday at the special price of

\$8.50

Girls' Outerwear

To-day, the young girl of six to sixteen expects to be as smartly dressed as her elders, and the Spring assortments have been assembled with a realization of this fact. Every wanted garment for school, street and party dress may be found in the present stock.

Silk Dresses, \$18.50 to 195.00
Voile, Organdie and Challis Dresses at . . . \$16.50 to 58.00
Coats . . . 14.75 to 185.00
Capes . . . 13.50 to 78.00
Separate Skirts, 5.90 to 14.50
Blouses . . . 3.50 to 8.25
Tub Dresses . . 5.50 to 18.50

(Second Floor)

Charming Novelties in French Overblouses

just received from Paris, are displayed in the Blouse Department, on the Second Floor.

The Overblouse is one of the smartest innovations introduced this season, and it is shown here in all of its most attractive variations. Every model in the collection is an individual type—graceful, picturesque, and chic. The materials are mostly of the diaphanous order, now so much in demand, but the decorative effects introduced are many and diverse.

Embroideries, richly wrought in silk, metal, beads or other media, are a dominant feature; for these are an important factor in fashionable costume this season, here and in Paris.

The prices of these imported overblouses range
from \$48.00 to \$225.00.